



401 W. Sandusky St.
Findlay, Ohio 45840
Office Phone: 419-420-9261
Fax: 419-423-7219

FACT SHEET

OPEN ARMS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & RAPE CRISIS SERVICES

MISSION:

To offer and promote quality programs, services, and resources to those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault; to provide a safe environment for victims in such crisis situations; and to educate the community on domestic violence and sexual assault.

HISTORY & SERVICES PROVIDED BY OPEN ARMS

...In 1978 a Task Force was formed to determine the need for Domestic Violence services in Hancock County...

- 1. THIRTY DAY CRISIS INTERVENTION SHELTER;** opened in 1981
provides immediate and temporary emergency shelter for victims and their children
- 2. OUTREACH PROGRAM;** began in 1983
24-hour crisis hotline, advocacy, support and education for those needing non-shelter assistance
- 3. RAPE CRISIS PROGRAM;** began in 1987
providing medical and legal accompaniment, individual and group support, and education/awareness presentations
- 4. VIOLENCE RECOVERY PROJECT;** began in 1989
a one year program for offenders of domestic violence; attendance is voluntarily or by court order
- 5. CHILDREN'S PROGRAM;** began in 1990
provides a variety of supports for children participating in the residential and/or outreach programs
- 6. VISITATION/EXCHANGE PROGRAM;** began in 1999
allows parents to exchange or visit with their children while avoiding contact with each other; eliminating their children's exposure to potentially violent situations

STRUCTURE OF OPEN ARMS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND RAPE CRISIS SERVICES

- Eleven full-time and five part-time employees.
- A 16 member board of directors representing area businesses, human/social service agencies, government and community governs the agency.
- Diverse active volunteer opportunities exist, saving the organization nearly \$30,000 annually
- Two facilities; the Shelter which is confidential and the Outreach/Administration Office which is a public facility located at 401 W. Sandusky St., Findlay, Ohio.

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- April of **2006**; selected for Promising Practice Award by Attorney General Jim Petro.
- October of **2001**; named Outstanding Domestic Violence Project in a joint award given by both Ohio's state wide Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions.
- June of **2000**; featured in a national study published by the University of Chicago for innovative collaborative practices.
- November of **1999**; named Outstanding Organization Statewide by the Ohio Coalition on Sexual Assault.
- June of **1999**; presented with an award for innovative and collaborative awareness and prevention activities during National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Red Ribbon Drug Free Celebration Week from Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth.

*It should be noted that the **Open Arms shelter program** is the only shelter in Hancock County that provides immediate, temporary housing for women and children in potentially dangerous situations 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Open Arms is also the only agency that provides rape crisis services in our county.*

STATISTICS

- In 2007, Open Arms Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Services **provided shelter to 111 adults and children.**
- Also, in 2007, our **rape crisis program served 1,126 individuals through emergency room visits, individual support, crisis calls, and prevention presentations.**
- Open Arms **Child Advocacy Program reached out to 101 children** in Hancock County.
- Our **Violence Recovery Project for offenders provided assistance to 85 individuals.**
- **544 adults participated in our Outreach Program**, including support group, individual counseling, and legal advocacy.
- Our agency **received 326 information and referral calls**, and **we gave 1,495 referrals in 2007.**
- Open Arms **24 hour crisis hotline received 566 crisis calls.**
- Through group presentations and our community education, prevention, and awareness efforts **we reached out to approximately 5,059 people in Hancock County.**
- Harmony House, **visitation & exchange program provided 990 visits and 524 exchanges.**

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

Open Arms relies on financial support from a variety of sources: the United Way of Hancock County, state and federal grants, a percentage of all marriage license fees and divorce fees filed in Hancock County, and private contributions. Through United Way and/or private contributions, you help provide these domestic violence and rape crisis services to the citizens of our community.

Also, the agency always needs caring people to volunteer. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or would just like more information about Open Arms and the services provided, please call our business line at 419-420-9261.

Family Portrait: drawn by a child client of Open Arms.



Dad is depicted with arms flailing. He often threatens to kill mom. Family member to the far right is a deceased sibling, so noted by bodiless head floating in mid air. Although mom is alive she is depicted in the same manner. This indicates the child's impending belief in mom's future death.